

Presidio of San Francisco, Flammable Materials  
Storehouse SM-38  
(Acid Storage Building) (Paint Room) (Building 1168)  
Gorgas Avenue Vicinity, Letterman Hospital Complex  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
San Francisco  
San Francisco County  
California

**HABS No.** CA-2636

HABS  
CAL  
38-SANFRA,  
180-

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107**

6 August 1996

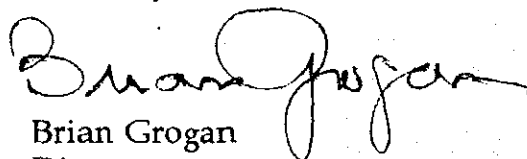
Denise Bradley  
Dames & Moore  
221 Main Street  
San Francisco  
California 94105

Dear Denise:

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Sincerely,



Brian Grogan  
Director

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CA-2631, CA-2632, CA-2633, CA-2634, ~~CA-2634~~, CA-2635  
CA-2636, CA-2637, CA-2638

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, FLAMMABLE MATERIALS STOREHOUSE SM-38  
(Acid Storage Building) (Paint Room)  
(Building 1168)

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**Location:** Building 1168 is located northeast of Gorgas Avenue warehouses, between building 1067 and the Highway 101 ramp to Golden Gate Bridge, Presidio of San Francisco, in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; City and County of San Francisco, California.

U.S.G.S. San Francisco North Quadrangle (7.5), Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10. 548 470. 4183 800

**Significance:** Building 1168 is significant as a support structure to Letterman Hospital during the period from 1937 to 1940, and from 1941 to 1945. Utilitarian in function, using standard materials and construction methods, its design and construction display a concern for its appearance. It is a contributory structure to the Presidio of San Francisco's National Historic Landmark district.

**Description:** Building 1168 is a one-story, rectangular (12 by 36 feet) gray concrete structure with a shed roof. It is constructed of reinforced concrete throughout with a reinforced concrete foundation, floor, walls, and roof. Concrete surfaces are not stuccoed or otherwise disguised and formwork is clearly visible. The roof is supported inside by reinforced concrete beams (one is visible through the west window). The roof projects past the walls on all sides and the fascia is treated with a simple molding. There are two doors at the center of the south side and there is a window at either end of the building. The doors are of vertical plank construction with a painted sign above each. Barely visible above the easternmost sign are the words "Paint Room Class 52 Class 51" and "Flammable."

The windows are wood casements, hinged at the bottom, and the window openings are protected by exposed vertical reinforcing bars.

There is a circular metal ventilator on the roof that appears to be of more recent construction than the building. It was not possible to get inside the building due to a lost key, and the view to the inside from the open window at the west end is inadequate to reveal any partitions or other features except a single roof beam. The building is provided with electricity but no water, heat, or other utilities.

Although the building lacks stylistic character and is thoroughly utilitarian in appearance, the symmetry of the composition and the formwork, overhanging eaves, and fascia molding display a concern for its appearance on the part of both the designer and builder.

The building faces the rear of the Gorgas Avenue warehouses. It is the last of a smaller group of concrete warehouses in this area. Behind the building and at the west end are pine and cypress trees and a large yucca plant. There is asphalt paving on the south side and east end.

**Historical Context:** Building 1168 was built in 1937 as a hazardous materials storehouse for Letterman Hospital at a cost of \$3,456.00. It was built about the same time that the adjacent ramp to the Golden Gate Bridge was built. It has been known variously as a flammable materials storehouse, acid storage building, and paint room. It was situated in a group of concrete buildings for hazardous materials<sup>1</sup> across from the Gorgas Avenue warehouses along the rail line. It served a support function to Letterman Hospital until 1983, when it was returned to the jurisdiction of the Main Post of the Presidio. Gas cylinders used in various medical procedures were in storage at that time. Since then the building has not been used.<sup>2</sup>

**Endnotes:**

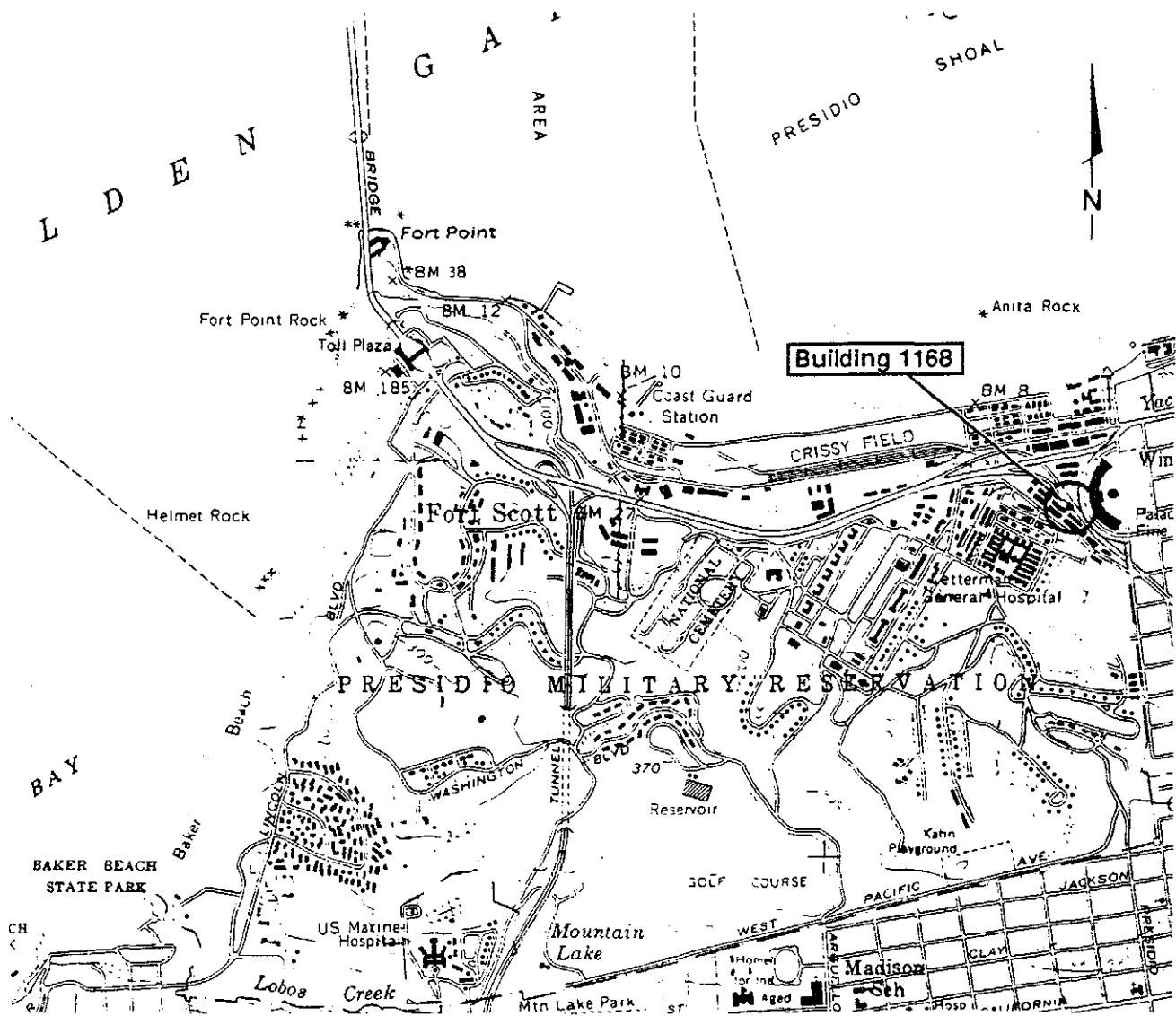
1. Richard Hansen, interview with Michael Corbett, May 4, 1995.
2. John Finney, interview with Michael Corbett, May 4, 1995.

**Sources:**

- A. Architectural drawings: None were found, although a citation exists to Drawing No. PSF E-1009.
- B. Historic news: None found.
- C. Interviews:
  - Finney, John, at Letterman since 1979. Telephone interview with Michael Corbett, May 4, 1995.
  - Hansen, Richard, NPS; at PSF since 1988. Telephone interview with Michael Corbett, May 4, 1995.
- D. Bibliography:
  - Harrison, Laura Soullière. *Historic Buildings of the Presidio, Physical History Report*, volume 13 (Buildings 1061-1208), Denver Service Center: The National Park Service, 1993. Binders of text and photographs.
  - U.S. Army Real Property, Record, DA Form 2877 (1 Nov. 64). File on Building 1168 at ARC, ADPWEMR-5, Box 3.
  - Alley, Paul and Leo R. Barker, Gordon Chappell, Carey Feierabend, John P. Langellier, David Quiteris, and Sally A. Dean. "Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District," National Register of Historic Places - Registration Form. Submitted October 16, 1992; signed by the Keeper, May 25, 1993.
- E. Likely sources not yet investigated: Quartermaster Corps Form 117 at the Presidio Army Museum, cited in Harrison, could not be located for this report.

**Project Information:** Building 1168 is part of the Letterman Complex Planning Area, as identified in the *Final General Management Plan Amendment* (FGMPA) (July 1994). The demolition of Building 1168 is in accordance with the preferred alternative identified for the Letterman Complex Planning Area in the *FGMPA Environmental Impact Statement* (July 1994). The Programmatic Agreement for the FGMPA Environmental Impact Statement stipulates Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation as a mitigation measure for the adverse effects resulting from the demolition of Building 1168. This report is part of the HABS documentation and was prepared by Michael R. Corbett, architectural historian, Dames & Moore, San Francisco, in May 1995.

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(Building 1168)  
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PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, FLAMMABLE MATERIALS STOREHOUSE SM-38  
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